

Night of Design



Anyone building a model aeroplane usually does this in isolation, i.e. alone and in their own workshop. This means that exchanges of experience directly on the object and encouragement from role models are rare.

Imagination and ideas required

Joint targets and realising them through teamwork are definitely not seen often enough. This is a problem that various clubs are trying to overcome with interesting projects. It is worthwhile for club committees to keep developing ideas and concepts for promoting the

design and self-build of model aircraft among their members. The processes of designing and building, followed by the crowning glory of a first flight not only provide huge potential for personal development but are also unique and emotionally significant experiences.



Start small

For such development projects, it is crucial to select an appropriate degree of difficulty and timeframe. In times where the pressures of work tend to be intense, especially the latter must be considered carefully. Building projects that are never completed and end up rotting somewhere are anything but encouraging. The anticipated time required, as well as costs should be kept as low as possible. The project could possibly be supported by simple incentives such as small prizes or certificates, etc. What's important is that members have to take part voluntarily.

Project 1 Simple standard model with a tight timeframe

On the basis of some publicity and a members' survey, the club committee obtains a number of kits for an electric foam model with all equipment and sets a relatively tight deadline, for example an event, for presenting the models. The equipment has to be complete. Jointly flying in as many of these model airplanes as possible will be an unforgettable experience and there is the ongoing and important interaction between participants: How did you solve this? How heavy is your model? etc.



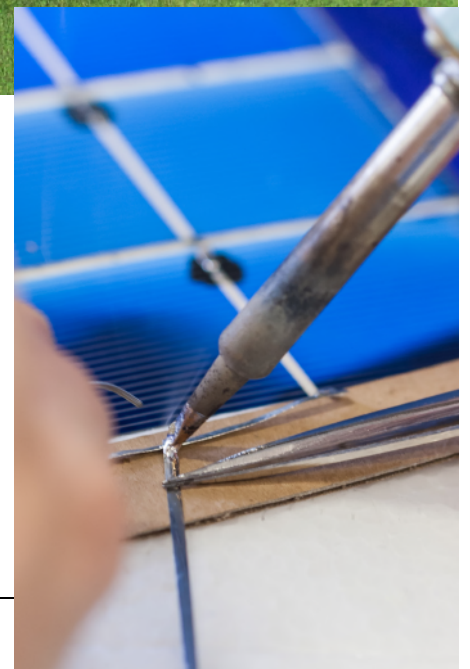
Project 2 A design task with a specific theme

Design tasks that don't necessarily require a large amount of work have to be well thought out. It is often advisable to impose certain constraints, e.g. which model will fly the slowest, setting a limit for wing span, etc.



Project 3 Joint building of more sophisticated model aircraft

The well-known solar flight pioneer Helmut Bruss built solar models with school classes as early as the 1980s. Following this example, such solar flight workshops for young and old are still being held. Of course, in



today's age this involves using state-of-the-art control technology. The advantage of such demanding workshops lies in achieving a joint goal through mutual support.

Project 4 Night of design

One model flying club near Geneva in Switzerland carries out a design and building project every summer. Overnight, each participating member, or several members together, build their own model according to their own ideas. The club calls this event "la nuit de la construction". It takes place in a tent beside the clubhouse which is equipped with machines and tools – there is even a CNC milling machine – and an aircraft is designed and built from scratch overnight. The results are impressive – not just for laymen.

Conclusion

Verbal publicity and appeals to the community of aeromodellers, to once again build or even design an aircraft themselves, are usually not very effective. As examples clearly demonstrate, it is worth wrapping this objective up in simple projects. In line with our hectic lifestyles, timeframes for achieving results must be as short as possible.



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Editor:
Emil Ch. Giezendanner
ebi.giezendanner@bluewin.ch